

Message Text

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EXDIS

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TAGS: YO, US

SUBJECT: TITO'S VISIT TO THE US

1. SUMMARY - YUGOSLAV PRESIDENT TITO BECAME THE FIRST
COMMUNIST CHIEF OF STATE TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES DURING
THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION AND HIS STATE VISIT TO WASHINGTON

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MARCH 7-9, CAPPED THE SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN US-YUGO-
SLAV RELATIONS OVER THE PAST YEAR. THE ATMOSPHERICS AND
RAPPORT WITH PRESIDENT CARTER WERE ESPECIALLY WARM. THE
DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE TWO DELEGATIONS REVEALED SIMILAR
VIEWS IN MANY AREAS, PARTICULARLY THE HORN OF AFRICA. BUT
DIFFERENCES WERE ALSO DISCUSSED, PARTICULARLY IN OUR
APPROACHES TO THE MIDDLE EAST. IN THEIR TWO MEETINGS,

PRESIDENTS CARTER AND TITO ALSO DISCUSSED KOREA, US-SOVIET RELATIONS (INCLUDING SALT AND DETENTE GENERALLY), NONALIGNMENT AND SOUTHERN AFRICA. FOREIGN SECRETARY MINIC MET SEPARATELY WITH SECRETARY VANCE TO DISCUSS BILATERAL ISSUES: ECONOMIC RELATIONS, THE NUCLEAR FUEL LICENSE FOR THE KRSKO PROJECT, FUNDING OF THE S&T PROGRAM AND TERRORISM. US ARMS SALES TO YUGOSLAVIA WERE NOT RPT NOT DISCUSSED, DESPITE PRESS REPORTS TO THE CONTRARY. ANTI-YUGOSLAV DEMONSTRATORS GATHERED BEFORE TITO ARRIVED BUT CAUSED NO PROBLEMS. DURING HIS ACTUAL STAY, ALMOST NO DEMONSTRATORS WERE ACTIVE. AN EXTENSIVE JOINT STATEMENT LAID THE BASIS FOR MORE SOLID

RELATIONS FOR THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE. END SUMMARY.

2. THE TONE OF TITO'S VISIT - PERHAPS HIS LAST TO THE US - WAS SET BY THE PRESIDENT'S WARM WELCOMING REMARKS. THIS TONE PERMEATED THE TALKS AND THE SOCIAL EVENTS AND SERVED TO STRENGTHEN THE RELATIONSHIP, WHICH HAS SHOWN STEADY IMPROVEMENT SINCE VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'S VISIT TO BELGRADE LAST MAY.

3.
ON THE HORN THERE WAS NEAR UNANIMITY BETWEEN THE TWO DELEGATIONS ON THE NEED FOR SOMALI WITHDRAWAL FROM THE OGADEN AND FOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT, PREFERABLY UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE OAU. BOTH SIDES ALSO AGREED ON
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THE NEED TO HAVE CUBAN AND SOVIET TROOPS WITHDRAW FROM ETHIOPIA AND THE YUGOSLAVS PROMISED A FULL READ-OUT FROM FOREIGN SECRETARY MINIC'S VISIT TO BOTH COUNTRIES AND TO THE SUDAN SOON AFTER HIS RETURN FROM WASHINGTON.

4. ON THE MIDDLE EAST, THE YUGOSLAVS CRITICIZED SADAT'S INITIATIVE FOR DIRECT DEALINGS WITH ISRAEL, SAYING THAT IT PROBABLY WOULD NOT WORK AND HAD STIMULATED SHARP OPPOSITION FROM THE OTHER ARABS. WE ARGUED THAT THE DIRECT DIALOGUE HAD NOT FAILED YET AND SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED. BOTH SIDES AGREED ON THE NEED TO WORK TOWARDS A COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION.

5. ON KOREA, THE YUGOSLAVS REITERATED KIM IL-SONG'S DESIRE FOR DIRECT CONTACTS WITH THE US AND SOUGHT OUR VIEWS ON OTHER WAYS TO BREAK THE DEADLOCK THERE. WE SAID THAT WE WOULD NOT DEAL WITH THE NORTHWITHOUTSOUTH KOREAN PARTICIPATION, BUT WOULD CONSIDER INITIATIVES WHICH YUGOSLAVIA MIGHT SUGGEST TO MEET THE NEED TO RESUME THE NORTH-SOUTH KOREAN DIALOGUE.

6. THE YUGOSLAVS ALSO SUGGESTED FURTHER EFFORTS FOR DE-

TENTE AND BETTER US-SOVIET RELATIONS, NOTING THAT THE SOVIETS BELIEVED RELATIONS WERE STAGNATING OVER SALT, THE MIDDLE EAST AND HUMAN RIGHTS. WE SAID THAT WE WERE SEEKING BETTER UNDERSTANDING WITH THE SOVIETS AND WERE ENCOURAGED WITH THE PROGRESS TOWARD SALT II. BUT WE DID NOT FIND A CONSISTENT WILLINGNESS ON THE SOVIET SIDE TO SEEK A RESOLUTION OF OUR PRESENT DIFFERENCES.

7. THE YUGOSLAVS EXPOUNDED ON THE INTERESTS AND CONCERNS OF THE NONALIGNED AND OUTLINED THE OBJECTIVES OF THE FORTHCOMING MEETING IN KABUL AND THE FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING IN BELGRADE THIS SUMMER. WE ASKED ABOUT THE ROLE OF CUBA IN THE MOVEMENT, AND THE YUGOSLAVS INDICATED THEIR CONCERN

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THAT CUBA AND OTHER RADICAL STATES NOT POLARIZE THE MOVEMENT.

8. BEFORE THE VISIT THE YUGOSLAVS WERE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT SECURITY PRECAUTIONS AND PARTICULARLY ABOUT POSSIBLE ANTI-TITO DEMONSTRATIONS. WE SHARED THIS CONCERN. THE RESULT WAS THAT A FEW HUNDRED ANTI-YUGOSLAV EMIGRES HELD A NOISY BUT PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION NEAR THE WHITE HOUSE ON MARCH 6 BEFORE TITO ARRIVED, BUT DURING THE TIME HE WAS HERE ONLY A SMALL HANDFUL (15-20) PROTESTERS MARCHED ON THE SIDEWALK IN FRONT OF THE WHITE HOUSE.

9. COMMENT - FROM THE YUGOSLAV SIDE, THE MAIN PURPOSES OF THE VISIT WERE TO DEMONSTRATE THE RESPECT FOR TITO AND HIS WORLD ROLE AND TO BALANCE HIS VISITS TO MOSCOW, PEKING, AND ELSEWHERE LAST YEAR. FROM OUR SIDE, THE PURPOSE WAS TO BUILD A BASIS FOR OUR RELATIONS WHICH WE HOPE WILL OVERCOME MINOR IRRITATIONS AND EXTEND INTO THE POST-TITO FUTURE. IN OUR VIEW, THE VISIT MOVED OUR RELATIONS WITH YUGOSLAVIA FORWARD AND THE YUGOSLAVS HAVE SAID THEY SHARE THIS APPRAISAL.

10. THIS INFORMATION IS FOR EMBASSIES AND OTHER US MISSIONS ONLY, BUT MAY BE DRAWN ON AT YOUR DISCRETION IN DISCUSSIONS WITH HOST COUNTRY OFFICIALS. VANCE

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